

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 099653

51

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TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MAS, EAID, SU

SUBJ: U. S. ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 991

(B) KHARTOUM 1030

1. INITIATION BY CHARGE OF DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS GOS
OFFICIALS RE EXTENT OF U. S. ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN SINCE
RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR
ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE ARE TO BE COMMENDED AS TACTFUL AND
TIMELY WAY OF TEMPERING SUDANESE EXPECTATIONS OF U. S. WITH
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PAGE 02 STATE 099653

REALITY. WE REALIZE THAT SOME SUDANESE DISAPPOINTMENT WITH U. S. RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IS INEVITABLE IN VIEW EXISTING LIMITATION ON U. S. RESOURCE AVAILABILITY, UNCERTAINTY FUTURE A. I. D. LEGISLATION, AND HIGHER U. S. PRIORITIES ELSEWHERE. WE BELIEVE U. S. RESPONSE TO SUDAN'S REQUESTS TO DATE IN BOTH DEVELOPMENTAL AND HUMANITARIAN AREAS HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL AND THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR U. S. TO BE DEFENSIVE REGARDING IT. ALTHOUGH WE WILL CONTINUE DO WHAT WE CAN, WITHIN FISCAL REALITIES, U. S. CANNOT BE EXPECTED PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN MEETING SUDAN'S REQUIREMENTS, EITHER IN ECONOMIC OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE AREAS, AND GOS SHOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK TO MULTIPLICITY OF POTENTIAL AND ACTUAL DONORS (E. G. UK, GERMANY, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS) TO FILL RESOURCE GAP.

2. PROBLEM OF SUDAN'S EXPECTATIONS OF U. S. HELP WOULD CURRENTLY APPEAR TO BE MOST ACUTE IN AREA OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE; WHERE EXPECTATIONS ARE GREAT AND EXTENT TO WHICH U. S. CAN BE RESPONSIVE TO REQUESTS LIMITED. CHARGE'S DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT WITH FONMIN AND WITH BRIGGEN KHALIL (REFTEL A) HIGHLIGHT DIFFICULTY. PLAIN FACT IS THAT BUDGETARY AND CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS RULE OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF GRANTS OF MILITARY MATERIEL SINCE WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THIS SITUATION WILL CHANGE IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE, CHARGE SHOULD INFORM GOS OFFICIALS WHEN SUBJECT NEXT ARISES THAT U. S. REGRETFULLY CANNOT RESPOND POSITIVELY TO REQUEST FOR C-130 AIRCRAFT ON GRANT BASIS. IF GOS WISHES PURCHASE TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT COMMERCIALY, WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY HELP IT DETERMINE WHICH AIRCRAFT BEST MEETS ITS NEEDS AT LOWEST COST.

3. POSSIBILITIES FOR MILITARY TRAINING ALSO LIMITED BY FACT THAT SUDAN TRAINING WILL COME OUT OF AFRICAN REGIONAL FUNDS. FYI: PROPOSED DOLLARS FIFTY THOUSAND FOR SUDANESE TRAINING WILL COME OUT OF DOLLARS EIGHTY THOUSAND REQUESTED FOR ENTIRE AFRICAN REGION. IF REGIONAL REQUEST IS CUT, AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR SUDAN MAY ALSO HAVE TO BE REDUCED. FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IS MAXIMUM PLANNING FIGURE AND FINAL AMOUNT, WHICH COULD BE LOWER, WILL DEPEND UPON CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON BUDGET. END FYI. WE
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PAGE 03 STATE 099653

ESTIMATE ROUGHLY THAT DOLLARS FIFTY THOUSAND WILL PROVIDE TRAINING FOR ABOUT SIX SUDANESE OFFICERS IN COMMAND AND STAFF TYPE COURSES. NUMBER OF TRAINING POSITIONS MAY VARY, HOWEVER, DEPENDING ON COST OF TRAINING COURSES WHICH GOS SELECTS.

4. IN HIS CONTINUING CONTACTS, CHARGE, CONSISTENT WITH

FOREGOING SHOULD TACTFULLY BUT CLEARLY INDICATE GOS WILL HAVE TO LOOK TO OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO PLAY PRIMARY ROLE FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE PLEASED THAT UK, WITH WHICH SUDAN HAS LONG STANDING MILITARY TRAINING AND SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP, HAS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO GOS ASSISTANCE REQUESTS.

5. ADDITIONAL COMMENT AND INFORMATION WILL BE SUPPLIED ON REF B AS RESULT ONGOING INFORMAL CONVERSATION AND FUTURE USG MEETINGS HERE WITH IBRD PRIOR TO SUDAN CG SESSION IN PARIS. IN ANY CASE CHARGE SHOULD CONTINUE SOUNDING THEMES COGENTLY PUT FORWARD IN PARAS 5, 6, AND 10 OF REF B. RUSH

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